

**Murray History Advisory Board  
Minutes for November 28, 2017**

Attendance: Mildred Horton, Rebecca Santa Cruz, Sara Roach, Laurel Shepard, Wendy Parsons  
Baker. Staff: Mary Ann Kirk, Lori Edmunds, Jennifer Broschinsky  
Visitor: David Amott (Preservation Utah)  
Excused: Syanna Madsen

1. Minutes for October 24, 2017 were approved as written.
2. Jennifer and Lori attended training on creating a disaster plan. Some planning was done several years ago when Mary Ann and Andrea attended a similar workshop. The museum was part of a larger plan for city hall. A “pocket plan” was updated and administrators typically carry this at all times. Jennifer and Lori are still reviewing what needs to be done. Jon Harris is the city disaster coordinator and Jordan Knight is the city risk manager. The museum is part of a larger city disaster plan. There is a statewide disaster plan and statewide resources available also. Mary Ann suggested the fire department be invited each year to review what items in the museum are priorities in the event of a fire or disaster. Mary Ann had previously told them the public art is first priority. Textiles would probably be the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority. Boxes that store things should also be moved quickly if water is involved. Jennifer suggested the photographs need to be separated immediately if they get wet. This will need to be reviewed. Many objects and resources are covered in display cases or files. The plan will change if the museum is moved to a separate location.
3. The city is moving forward to rehab the Murray Theater. Lori explained the city is trying to bring back its historic elements that focus on a performing venue with permanent seating. They want to focus on local needs first. The city is planning to own and manage the facility. An architect consultant is designing an upgrade for an art focus with potential costs. The city is planning on submitting a funding request to the Utah Legislature for the upgrade. The building is currently only used for a few city needs such as rehearsals until it is brought up to code. It will seat about 300 people. It is not big enough for large concerts and groups but will work for small theater and concerts. Our schools fill that particular need.
4. A new Murray trail has been finished along the SLC Jordan Canal. The city and the Murray Rotary Club are working together to help fund some signage along with some help from Wheeler Farm. They are looking to us for some help with the signage content. Mary Ann has suggested the signage include history related to the early farmers and some of the historic buildings that are still standing.
5. The Jordan River history signage is in very poor shape. We found the original text and took photos of the signs but the graphics need to be upgraded. Mary Ann wondered if we could have patrons buy or “sponsor” each sign if we don’t get city funding.
6. Mary Ann is retiring in January and her replacement will be finalized this week and then a new assistant will be hired over the next month.
7. Mary Ann asked Tim Tingey about the old Iris building and the pilasters that were removed this past year by the owner. Some contractors were doing some repairs and thought it would be easier to remove them. They did not go through the required design review process. The city has asked the owner to restore them. Mary Ann indicated Tim will be reporting to the board in the future and this is something that should be followed up. The Ore Sampling Mill is also another building

that the board should follow. It is gutted and may not qualify for any tax credits but it is the only building left from the smelter era. It is important to pay attention to changes to our historic buildings and ask Tim to keep us updated.

8. The Preserve Murray group contacted Mary Ann this week and indicated the owner of various buildings on Vine Street had put the buildings back on the market. Mary Ann said the city has not verified that. The group has planned a walk-through of the Murray 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. City officials are not attending because of ongoing litigation. Lori asked if board members could attend. Mary Ann said that would be fine as long as they do not infer they are representing the city in any capacity. David asked if the city would impose stricter requirements if a new buyer came forward. Mary Ann explained the process would be the same. It goes through a design review process. The history board is not an official review board. They can provide recommendations to the design review committee, P&Z or City Council, but are not responsible for the final decision. Mary Ann said that some City Council members expressed interest in making changes to the MCCD ordinance to reduce height and density. The history board may want to discuss ways to diminish opportunities for demolition

Rebecca asked how potential buyers are informed of the historic elements of a building and any conditions. Mary Ann said businesses looking for property typically research city ordinances and potential restrictions prior to purchasing property. She doesn't think it is flagged on county records. This would be a good question for Tim when he attends. Mary Ann said she tried to see if there was a way to list our register on county records but that was difficult. She has relied on current owners to communicate to potential buyers. We mail formal letters to homeowners when they are placed on the local register.

9. The meeting schedule for 2018 was approved with meetings now scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 6 pm. The dates are January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 23, August 22, September 26, October 24, and November 28.
10. Mary Ann reviewed past communication with the Mayor's office about potential locations for a museum and shared an updated list of locations that reflected differing components of a museum including a repository that includes a permanent exhibit with office and resource space, storage, programming including workshops and changing exhibits, and location visibility. Mary Ann and Lori are taking city officials to a few other museums to give them an idea of various museum components so they can decide what vision they want for the museum. We currently operate as a repository with a permanent exhibit for school children and one-time visitors and resources for people doing research. This could likely fit in the chapel. But without programming and changing exhibits, it is not a destination site and does not encourage public attendance and generate operating revenue. Mildred said it basically is only used for school tours with a few drop ins.

This past year, the board created a vision statement to reflect a broader mission as a destination site to bring people downtown with potential revenue. That is why we recommended 7000 square feet. It doesn't have to be a large professional museum like Utah Fine Arts. But it can be a good community destination site. Mildred said it has really only served the school population who have liked the connection to city organization. Mary Ann said we could take kids from the museum to a city hall nearby.

Once city leaders provide direction on their vision, the board can help select a location and steer what needs to be done for a move as a new city hall is built. Rebecca didn't think we should expect them to do all the research. She suggested we provide visual examples of other successful

museums. It should include a description of their programming and revenue it generated in the community. Jennifer described the Idaho Falls Museum. It began as a small static local museum and is now a major destination site with changing exhibits and extensive programming. Mary Ann said the board could put together a packet of museum examples if they wanted to do that. We could find examples of various buildings types including successful house museums. Lori would need help from the board. It could provide descriptions of programming and operational budgets. David wasn't sure a house museum works for our vision.

Mary Ann felt the Cahoon Mansion could work if they put our static museum in a remodeled basement with new exhibits in the smaller historic rooms. The ballroom could be used for touring or changing exhibits, children activities, and rental space. But other spaces could work as well.

Right now the location is still fluid but we need to define the vision first. The best options seemed to be the Cahoon Mansion, Carnegie Library, Armory, and Power building although the power building does not have good visibility.

Rebecca asked where the Carnegie Library was going. Mary Ann said it will be saved where it is. It is the Townsend home that will be moved across the street into a proposed historic park on Poplar with the Cahoon Mansion and the Chapel. The Carnegie Library and the Armory could work well for the museum. Both have good visibility.

A museum could also be incorporated into a new city hall or a new library. Both are good options.

David asked if the funding is secured for the museum. Mary Ann said the city has purchased the Cahoon Mansion with that intent but city officials now realize it will take upgrades to make it work. But a museum facility must be found as city hall is moved which houses our current museum.

All of these options would require building upgrades with funding sources. Lori suggested the city seems to be focused on other major projects for now.

11. Funding is a big issue right now related to the historic buildings the city has purchased, especially the Murray Theater and the Cahoon Mansion. We have CLG monies for planning components but it is not designed for brick and mortar projects. The city would like to apply for state funding this year if feasible. The county has funding through TRCC but we just received funding for the amphitheater and the county is building a new performing arts center in Taylorsville which will probably limit their support for our Murray Theater project.
12. Jennifer said the state just released museum funding. Mary Ann said the state won't let us submit both a museum and an arts application and the amounts are not large. We have applied for the arts grant since we typically get more for the arts than museum grants.

David said Federal Main Street funding is available. Mary Ann said these are really competitive and highly unlikely to receive. He also suggested Gail Miller's husband, Kim Wilson, is involved with LDS Historic Sites Foundation. None of these buildings have an LDS focus although this source could possibly be used for the Murray 1<sup>st</sup> Ward.

Mary Ann said the Eccles, Sorenson, and Wheeler Foundation have been good resources and should be utilized once we have a design and estimated expenses. David suggested Woodbury Foundation provides funding for dance and theater which might relate to the Murray Theater.

Mary Ann asked David what funding Preservation Utah offers. The loan program is the only source that might be applicable but it is related to building purchase. He will ask Kirk Huffacker if he has any other idea.

David noted large fundraising campaigns are difficult. It is so labor intensive. However, events do raise public awareness.

Sara has been involved with a utility bill campaign which was very successful while raising awareness.

Wendy suggested the city do simple upgrades at the Murray Theater quickly so the facility can bring in enough revenue to help pay for the larger upgrades. Mary Ann wasn't sure how that process would work since it is going to require a major remodel process that would be difficult to complete while other things were happening in the facility.

Lori thought that the city needs to work on one project at a time. We can't do everything all at once. They are working on a new fire station, city hall, Murray Theater, and the Museum. Wendy felt the city needs to identify the temporary use of these buildings so they don't deteriorate further. They need to be used in some way, even if they are leased for now. They need to generate some money. Mary Ann agreed this is important while they are deciding the vision for the museum.